

The Woman's Page of The Times-Dispatch

What Could Women

Do if Confronted by a National Crisis?

A Richmond clergyman said not long ago, "I do hope my daughters will have a purpose in their lives. I cannot bear to think of them as being satisfied with their trivialities. I want them to perceive the higher meaning of existence and endeavor it for themselves. I sometimes find myself wondering what the women of this community and of other communities would do if they found themselves confronted by a national crisis, like that of 1841, for example."

The train of thought suggested by the clergyman brought back to mind what the women of the '60's did. How did they meet hardships and endure loss and grief? The women of that day, in the South certainly, had known much of want and comfort, little of poverty and the thousand and one humiliations born of poverty. But the women of the '60's justified their test when it came, much as the French women of class had done before them, during the French Revolution.

These women were not guillotined. They did not make a curtsy to their partners at the card table, and trip away with head uplifted and red lips a-smile to play the last act in the life drama bravely and well on the scaffold. But when the men of their race and their State went out to do battle, they, with the slaves under them who remained faithful, managed the big plantations with their own judgment, helping to provision the army, using their resourcefulness to supply the place of money and of horses taken from them by invading forces; carding and spinning the cotton and wool that afterward, woven into cloth and knitted into socks, helped to clothe the army; inventing substitutes for coal oil in illumination, for coffee as a necessary drink; boiling sugar cane and making sugar and sorghum; plaiting straw and making hats, using every device that ingenuity and devotion could recommend, to meet immediate demand and pressing need.

Behind the army of the South, brave, constant and self-sustained to the last, in the plantation home and the hospital, was the army of Southern women, heartening, encouraging and inspiring the men of their race in the field.

These Were Shielded and Protected.

If ever women had been shielded and protected and kept from contact with the outside world, these were the women. Plantation life was necessarily, in many ways, an isolated life. The Southern country of the '60's boasted no big cities and no metropolitan tendencies. The training of the Southern women had been carried on in their homes, mainly under the guidance of their mothers and their governesses. Not infrequently the father of the family, a scholar of broad culture, would undertake the education of his daughters in Latin, for languages, ancient and modern, were then considered an essential factor in all complete and well-rounded cultivation.

Colleges for women now have a domestic science department. The young Southern woman who had taken her degree in her mother's store-room was independent of any further domestic instruction. She was a finished product.

Difference Born of Environment.

The greatest difference between the training of the women of the '60's and the women of the twentieth century, however, was in the atmosphere born of their environment, which endowed them with endurance, with intense patriotism, with a boundless capacity for self-sacrifice on behalf of the people and the principles that were dearest to their hearts.

The women who faced and overbore, through their courage and undimmed spirit, the crisis of '61, who satched on the gray which their men folk wore when they marched away in the ranks of the soldiery, were reared in homes where parents were revered, where they were the real heads of households, superior beings, toward whom obedience, filial respect and filial affection were felt and expressed.

Law of Southern Households.

The law of Southern households in the '60's embodied, therefore, the law of the first commandment with promise. It also embodied the law of simple, unquestioning, religious faith, and the daily prayer at the household altar. The reading of the scriptures, which went with the prayer, furnished a rule by which life began afresh with every morning. The mother was the companion and confidant of her daughters. They went to her for advice in matters big and little, and shaped their conduct largely by her views and ideas.

Money in those days counted for little in the scale against many other better things. Extravagance and display were disapproved by women of intelligence and refinement then, although in point of dress and appearance, the crisis of '61, who satched on the gray which their men folk wore when they marched away in the ranks of the soldiery, were reared in homes where parents were revered, where they were the real heads of households, superior beings, toward whom obedience, filial respect and filial affection were felt and expressed.

What Women Need.

What women need more than anything else to bring them back to some ideal life is a life which should obtain in every woman's life, is a home. Not every woman can live under the paternal roof, but women who are at work or in business can make for themselves, even in a room or two, where they can be independent as to their actions, their surroundings and friends. It makes no difference how busy a woman may be, she will find more happiness and altogether different sort of happiness out of a home, humble though it may be, than she will out of easier and more luxurious surroundings. The responsibilities she undertakes, the little hospitalities she renders in, the effort she makes to render her small home attractive, and the cozy, very feeling that she is the centre and ruling spirit of it, awaken her to realities rather than to artificialities. They remove her from much that is undesirable and enable her to regulate her life somewhat in accordance with what her judgment and preference indicate as best.

What Women of Wealth Should Do.

So much for the worker. The woman of wealth and leisure should certainly spend their best energies and opportunities in their homes and bring up their children more under their personal observation and care. The daughters of the rich have brought more actively and intimately into play. There was never a time when a woman could lead a purposeful life to better advantage, and the life of purpose need not stand far from social pleasures and opportunities.



THREE EXCLUSIVE PARIS MODELS.

L'Art de la Mode.

The Holiday Bride and What She Will Wear

The holiday bride competes with the debutante of the season in the interest of her many friends. There is no picture on which so many eyes feast with a genuine interest as on the bride's party. Youth and beauty and happiness appeal to all hearts.

What day in the life of a woman equals her bridal day? On that occasion she is the centre of interest. Her beauty is scrutinized, and for that hour at least her heart is satisfied. As she stands clouded in tulle, who does not envy her?

The veil of fine tulle will always be in favor, for there is nothing so becoming. However, the possessor of the real lace veil is favored by the present fashion.

This should not be worn over the face. It can be held in place by a wreath of orange blossoms.

If a quantity of narrow lace, a family heirloom, is among the bride's possessions, the finest net can be purchased and edged with the real lace and worn in a similar fashion.

The shower bouquet of lilies of the valley, varied by a great bow of malines instead of ribbon, remains the same.

No longer is it necessary for the bride to carry a formal train array of birds, roses or orchids, or whatever flowers selected, should be typical of the bride's taste.

In these artistic and varied bunches of flowers, fine ferns and great loops of malines are intermingled.

The dainty charm of this year's styles are suited to girlish loveliness. So, too, the flowers and their arrangement should be typical of youth.

In the Matter of Christmas Gifts

Picture frames of gold, silver, enamel and brocade are regarded as a "safe" gift among the wealthy, who say of them as the poor do of the ever-be-thanked handkerchief, "one cannot have too many."

Then there are mirrors for magnificent dressing tables, red and green ribbons and sprigs of holly. We wish our little presents to breathe Christmas and the Christmas spirit from the moment of their arrival.

More Popular Arrangement.

More popular than the shower bouquet with the maid of honor, or the lesser maid, is that of unconventional arrangement in which the long-stemmed roses with maidenhair and asparagus are carried loose in the arm. This is usually elaborated with huge loops and ends of white malines tied just above where the arm holds them.

Another bouquet of similar type is "made," but not stiff or conventional. In this the roses and asparagus are arranged to be up and down, and are tied with the malines. This bouquet extends from the waist to knees or below.

The note of color in the flowers may be again repeated in the head-dress. Satin ribbon or malines is arranged around the head. The hair is waved in becoming lines about the face, apparently held firmly in place by these bandeaux. The New Idea Magazine for December.

What Parents Should Do.

Confidence cannot be engendered between daughter and parents from the daughter's point of view alone, however. The mother must be infinitely wise, just and forbearing in the upbringing of her children. She must encourage freedom of intercourse in thought and expression between herself and them by entering into their pleasures and pursuits, by keeping pace with them in their intellectual development. She must dress for them and not for the world outside of her home. She must strive to win their admiration and love by setting her standards so high and living up to them so thoroughly as to demonstrate by a continual and visible object lesson

the truth and beauty of what she strives to inculcate. The father must cultivate the acquaintance of his family, must stand to them for justice, honor and principle above all, for the shielding and protecting element of fatherhood.

Both mother and father must thoroughly, and from the beginning, respect the individual rights of their children. A child has rights outside of the obedience to parents and elders, which is the first great step to be taken in life. Interference with these rights not only raises revolt in youthful minds, but hampers and checks the natural and spontaneous growth of individual character.

VIRGINIA WESTOVER.

Life's Inn.

The wide world stands a welcoming beside the sunny way. For peace and empire and knight and dame to halt and ride away. And crimson sweet the roses flamed that lay upon my breast. When all the world was but an inn, and I a welcome guest.

The knights were lion-hearted and their ladies lily fair. The silver armor glittered bright upon the roadway there. When each far distant turning held the promise of a quest. And all the world was but an inn, and I a welcome guest.

No knock was there of misery nor step of grimy toil. But bold adventure raised the latch. His palfrey heaped with spoil. While romance flew to hold his rein and wait on his behalf. When all the world was but an inn, and I a welcome guest.

And what care I that youth must fade and love locks turn to gray?

Forsooth, at every inn there lies some reckoning to pay. I've warmed my heart beside their fire, partaken of their best. When all the world was but an inn, and I a welcome guest.

—Martha Haskell Clark, in December Smart Set.

Style of Handwriting and What It Shows

First of all, we will consider the style of writing, thereby learning a few points concerning signatures.

The signature shows the character as a whole, the personal ambition, the tendencies as an individual, his or her tastes and temperament. It is in the combination of letters and in the form of the signature as a whole that the true character lies. The many details in the individual's make-up are shown in each stroke and in the formation of each letter, but as our space is limited we will confine our study to the signature alone.

First Important Point.

The first point of importance is the slope of the handwriting. If the writing slopes greatly to the right it indicates a passionate, susceptible, artistic temperament, liable to jealousy.

An upright writing indicates that reason predominates, and that in such a nature the head is stronger than the heart. Thackeray, Thomas Carlyle, Dr. Johnson, Elizabeth and Mary, Queens of England, wrote in this manner.

Back-hand Writing. Back-hand writing indicates a certain eccentricity of temperament, clever, penetrating and cautious. G. Bernard Shaw and Ibsen write in this manner.

In general, it may be said that thin, fine writing indicates delicacy of mind, while a thick, heavy writing indicates a stolid, heavy, sensual character. The methods of commencing and finishing letters and words are also important.

Indicated by Flowing Sweeps.

The prefixes are not so important as the endings, and both are subordinate to the general style. However, it may be said briefly that flowing sweeps at the end of letters indicate whole-souled, altruistic natures, and short, unfinished strokes, close-fisted, tactful temperaments.

The amount of intellect is often shown in the relation of letters to one another. If they are more or less disconnected, and if the capitals stand by themselves, good executive mental powers are possessed, a well-balanced mind, and ingenuity.

The Autumn Woods and the Pleasures They Afford

Women who are fond of the out-of-doors must be struck with the beauty of the autumn woods during this November season, when the crisp atmosphere renders walking through them a pleasure that is a genuine refreshment to mind and body.

No remedy for headache and lassitude in a woman's case can be more effectual than an hour or two spent out of doors in healthful exercise. A woman should beg or borrow the time for such exercise that is worth all the medicine in the world to her.

The sharp frosts of early November have left their imprint in crimson and gold and russet and who color upon the trees that are showing a thousand different shades, each one seeming more gorgeous than the other.

The Marsh Berries' Flame.

The marsh berries are beginning to flame upon their slender stalks and to look like strings of coral against the glowing green of the ferns around them. The brown fields, newly turned under the plow, or covered with the cornstalks, from which the ears and blades have been stripped, are a harmonious feature of the autumn picture.

In the woods the leaves are rustling. There is a feeling of nearness with the good warm earth that they cover; there is a pungent autumn perfume in the nostrils, the tap, tap of a little wood dyer in the ears, and the luscious purple of wild grape clusters to melt in the mouth of the gatherer.

Frost-Tipped Fruit.

In the field or fence corner stands a persimmon tree, its laden branches of frost-kissed fruit ready to fall at a touch, and far more delicate in flavor than dates. There are bits of moss and sprays of autumn leaves and autumn nuts to enrich the woman who spares a little time to hunt them out.

And then, when the autumn woods have yielded their pleasures and given of their store of refreshments, there is a return to duty with fresh vigor and joy, with a wholesome outlook and a greater ability to find indoor occupation a joy and not a burden.

Patience and Her Garden.

And it came to pass that there dwelt in the land a woman called "Patience." They named her "Patience" because they foresaw that she would be able to stand a lot, and she did. For Patience loved her friends generously, her children helpfully; she was just to the servant within her gates, and was, for the most part, patient with her husband.

And, behold, Patience was possessed of a beautiful garden. In the time when she had buried the brown bulbs in the earth, her heart had rejoiced in the time when the hyacinths would bear their spikes and the tulips put on their golden crowns; and in the spring she had dug in her garden and planted it and watered it and it daily waxed more promising.

She Looked for the Tulip Banks.

And it was the season of the spring pestilence and the children of Patience languished and she wept for this was in the days when people said not in their hearts, "There is no such thing as contagion, and our infirmities of the flesh are of our vain imaginings." So they languished, and Patience ministered unto her children, but she looked for the tulip banks and the smell of the hyacinths in her nostrils.

And Patience heeded her children by telling them about the garden paths and the sun-dial, and the robin that warbled in the bridal avenue, and when the days of fumigation were past Patience said within herself, "When my dwelling place is cleansed and the outside of my abode garnished I shall 'enjoy myself in my garden.'"

And, behold, she cleaned mightily and made cleanly her dwelling both without and within. And when, after two weeks of this mighty effort, she waxed weary, she said: "Next week I shall enjoy myself in my garden." And after many days she prepared herself and went forth early into her garden. In one hand she bore a sack, and in the sack were divers buttons and fastenings, and in the other hand she bore a sack, and in that sack were divers fast coverings for her family, and she went forth early into her garden. In one hand she bore a sack, and on her back she bore a burden, and in the burden were garments for her family, to be made whole. And Patience sewed and patched mightily and put new cloth in old garments, for she was quick with her needle and deft.

The Busy Day.

And, behold, she lifted up her eyes and she saw that it was night, and she said within herself, "I have not yet seen the sun, and I shall enjoy my garden, but peradventure to-day I have been too busy. But now that the rents are all mended and the sleeves in my daughters' garments are all made long and tight again, and the buttons of their garments are all lifted up, I shall have leisure to enjoy my chosen little plot, made sweet by the kiss of sunbeams and the caresses of rain and dew." For she felt regarding it that:

"A garden is a lovesome thing. God will."

Rose plot, fringed pool, fern'd grove—The vorlist school Of peace; and yet the fool Contends that God is not—Not God! In gardens! when the eve

Nay, but I have a sign: 'Tis very sure God walks in mine."

DAINTY CONCERNS FOR CHILDREN'S WEAR

The shops are full of attractive wearing apparel, and not the least appealing are the dainty concerns for children's wear. The tiny miss has her own fashions, which tend very suitably along the lines of the simple and picturesque, an effect, now in vogue for all ages, but particularly the children's prerogative.

The little coats which, though cut quite simply, are decidedly smart, are particularly noticeable for the trimming bands of braid, velvet or fur. One charming model is of tan broadcloth with a side closing, this being outlined by a dark fursling, which is repeated on the turnover collar and cuffs. Many children's coats are made of red cloth with black massiveness trimmings on collar and cuffs or collar and cuffs of black velvet. The military coat is much worn, usually in dark blue cheviot or sersey, with brass buttons for trimming. With this is seen a scarlet-lined cap, which is both cozy and stylish.

PATENTS That Protect and Pay

Send sketch or model for FREE SEARCH. Books, Advice, Searches and FREE Big List of Inventions Wanted Watson E. Coleman, Pat. Lawyer, Washington, D.C.